

**December 10, 2009**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced today that several individuals from New York's 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District have been selected to receive Fulbright awards to study, lecture, teach or conduct research overseas during the next academic year.

"I am honored to congratulate these students and scholars on their tremendous achievement," **Arcuri said.**

"The Fulbright Program helps build mutual understanding between America and the rest of the world and serves as a life changing experience for the 1,500 recipients each year. The 24<sup>th</sup>

Congressional District continues its tradition of producing some of the finest scholars in the country based out of many fine institutions."

**2009-2010 Fulbright Scholarship Awardees:**

Ms. Heather Adair of Clinton, NY will travel to Spain to teach English as a foreign language;

Dr. Meghan Brown of Geneva, NY will travel to Italy for biology;

Dr. Linnea Burwood of Cortland, NY will travel to Russia for history;

Dr. Joseph Halpern of Ithaca, NY will travel to Israel for information sciences/systems;

Dr. Marla Jaksch of Westmoreland, NY will travel to Tanzania for education;

Ms. Marie Piayai of Chadwicks, NY will travel to Thailand to teach English as a foreign language;

And, Ms. Erika Richter will travel to Finland for political science.

The Fulbright Program is America's flagship international exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program has exchanged over 300,000 people in over 155 countries around the world. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

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